

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 224085  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 NSCE-00  
PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 /049 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG  
APPROVED BY EUR/EE :CWSCHMIDT  
-----024743 191555Z /53

O 191503Z SEP 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 224085

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PL

SUBJECT: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) THE WASHINGTON POST ON  
SEPTEMBER 19 CARRIED THE FOLLOWING, UNATTRIBUTED ITEM  
HEADLINED "POLISH CHURCH HITS MEDIA." BEGIN TEXT:

-- POLAND'S ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS ATTACKED THE COUNTRY'S  
COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION AND  
ACCUSED THEM OF PROMOTING 'GODLESS IDEOLOGY' AND  
'TOTAL DICTATORSHIP.' THEY SAID THE MEDIA WAS SPREADING  
CLASS HATRED.

-- THE ATTACK CAME IN THE FORM OF A PASTORAL LETTER  
READ FROM THE PULPITS OF CHURCHES THROUGHOUT PRE-  
DOMINANTLY CATHOLIC POLAND. IT SAID THE POLISH MEDIA  
PROPAGATED THE 'CULT OF THE ROBOT MAN' IN AN EFFORT TO  
JUSTIFY POLITICAL LAWLESSNESS, FORCE, CLASS HATRED  
AND STRUGGLE.'

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PAGE 02 STATE 224085

-- THE POLISH BISHOPS AND COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES USE THE  
MEDIA TO 'CONSOLIDATE TOTAL DICTATORSHIP, TO EMPLOY  
CULTURAL COERCION, TO SPREAD LIES AND TO JUSTIFY THE  
VIOLATION OF THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.'

-- THE BISHOPS CALLED ON BELIEVERS TO OPPOSE PUBLICATIONS

AND PROGRAMS THAT OFFEND FAITH AND GOOD MORALS BY SENDING  
PROTESTS TO EDITORS AND PRODUCERS. END TEXT. (ENDS  
UNCLASSIFIED)

2. COMMENT: THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT SEEN THE COMPLETE  
TEXT OF THE PASTORAL LETTER FROM WHICH THIS REPORT WAS  
TAKEN BUT THE PASSAGES QUOTED SOUND UNUSUALLY HARD-  
HITTING. THE REPORTED CALL FOR A LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN  
AGAINST OFFENDING PUBLICATIONS SEEMS TO MARK A NEW  
INITIATIVE IN THE CHURCH'S EFFORTS AGAINST THE COMMUNIST  
MEDIA. WE PRESUME THIS STATEMENT WAS PREPARED BEFORE  
THE PRIMATE'S HOSPITALIZATION AND WAS APPROVED BY HIM.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S  
COMMENTS. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009